

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 305869  
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00  
INR-07 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-05 SS-15 /066 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:KPGARLAND:CJ  
APPROVED BY AF:WHARROP  
AF/E:RPOST

-----129917 230138Z /62  
O 230122Z DEC 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ET, US, PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE - DECEMBER 22

1. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED DECEMBER 22. COPY WAS GIVEN TO ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR DECEMBER 22 PM.
2. QUOTE WE ARE NOT TAKING SIDES IN THE DISPUTE BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA. AS HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY, THE US IS NOT SUPPLYING ARMS TO EITHER SIDE OF THIS CONFLICT. THAT SELF-IMPOSED PROHIBITION SPECIFICALLY EXTENDS TO THE TRANSFER OF US-ORIGIN MILITARY ITEMS TO EITHER OF THE COMBATANTS BY ANY THIRD PARTY. THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH TRANSFERS WE HAVE FORCEFULLY BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF POTENTIAL THIRD-PARTY SUPPLIERS TO EITHER ETHIOPIA OR SOMALIA.

3. WHILE WE ARE NOT CHALLENGING THE RIGHT OF ETHIOPIA
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TO DEFEND ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE ONLY WAY FOR THE DISPUTE BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA TO BE RESOLVED IS THROUGH NEGOTIATION. NO MILITARY SOLUTION WILL ENDURE SINCE MILITARY SUCCESS BY ONE SIDE WILL MERELY INCITE THE OTHER TO SEEK A MILITARY SOLUTION IN THE FUTURE. WE FEEL THAT THE MOST APPROPRIATE MECHANISM

FOR ACHIEVING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION FOR THIS AFRICAN  
PROBLEM IS THROUGH THE MECHANISM DEvised BY THE AFRICANS  
THEMSELVES, THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY'S ETHIOPIA-  
SOMALIA MEDIATION COMMISSION, CHAIRED BY NIGERIA.

4. OUR OBJECTION TO THE ESCALATION OF THE SOVIET UNION'S  
MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN ETHIOPIA IS THAT THIS ACTION CANNOT  
HELP BUT STIMULATE AN EFFORT TO SEEK A MILITARY RATHER THAN  
A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

5. WE CALL UPON THE SOVIET UNION TO CEASE ALL ACTIVITIES  
WHICH ENCOURAGE THE RESORT TO ARMS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA  
AND TO EMBARK INSTEAD ON A COURSE OF ACTION DESIGNED TO  
BRING BOTH SIDES OF THE CONFLICT TO NEGOTIATE THEIR  
DIFFERENCES WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE  
OAU. VANCE

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DRAFTED BY:AF:E:KPGARLAND

APPROVED BY:AF:E:PGSMITH

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P 232146Z DEC 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUTAIJ/AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY 0513

AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SECSTATE WASHDC DATED DECEMBER 23,  
1977 SENT ADDIS ABABA IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ET, US, PFOR

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, BORDER INCIDENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 23-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE305869  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** KPGARLAND:CJ  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Film Number:** D770478-0882  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 61b9cafd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** PRESS GUIDANCE - DECEMBER 22  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, ET, US, SO  
**To:** ADDIS ABABA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/61b9cafd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009